

ON INDIAN DISEASES AND REMEDIES.

With a return of sick treated at the Indian establishment Great Manitoulin Island, Lake Huron, in 1841-2.

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(For the British American Journal Medical & Physical Science.)

There having appeared in a former number of this Journal, a paper on the diseases of the slaves of the Southern States, it occurred to me, that something of the same kind on those of the Aborigines of this continent might prove worthy of attention; and Dr. Darling, the medical officer of the Indian department, at the Manatouawning Islands, on Lake Huron, having kindly favoured me with a copy of his sick report, at that station, for the year 1842, with some excellent remarks on particular cases, I have ventured to think they will be found not altogether unworthy of notice.

To the following report and remarks, I shall take the liberty of adding some observations on the indigenous remedies of the Indians, and their own mode of treating the diseases to which they are particularly liable.

Return of Sick treated at the Indian Establishment, Manatouawning, Wequanrekong, &c., Gt. Manitoulin Island, Lake Huron, from 16th August, 1841, (date of last Return,) to 31st December, 1842.

Disease.	No	Disease.	No.
Teeth extracted,	68	Simple fever,	14
Lientery,	2	Concussion of Brain, with	
Gall Stones,	1	Paralysis,	2
Diarrhea,	42	Do. of do., with wound	2
Dysentery,	46	Difficult Dentition,	28
Ophthalmia, acute and		Ulcerated Throat,	3
chronic,	32	Dysuria,	2
Inflammation of Windpipe	1	Paralysis,	1
Do. of Mucous Mem-		Worms,	21
brane of Lungs,	4	Hypochondriasis (a White)	1
Do. do., chronic,	19	Difficult Labour, Indian,	1
Wasting,	6	Aneurism by Anastomosis,	1
Vomiting,	16	Ophthalmia Jarsi, &c.	13
Inflammation of Liver, ...	2	Diseased Knee,	4
Do. of Brain,	2	Do. Shoulder,	1
Do. of Breast,	4	Do. Hip,	2
Do. of Lungs,	3	Do. Spine,	4
Do. of Throat,	28	Ulcers,	10
Rheumatism, chronic,	40	Epilepsy,	10
Do. acute,	3	Menorrhagia,	1
Colic,	12	Porrigo,	13
Boils,	8	Catarrh,	50
Amenorrhœa,	4	Erysipelas,	1
Neuralgia,	14	Burns, 1 fatal,	7
Gonorrhœa,	8	Dysmenorrhœa,	1
Sciatica,	5	Pleurodynia,	3
Abscess,	11	Debility,	1
Abscess of Lumb.,	1	Bloody Urine,	1
Abscess of Breast,	2	Retention of Urine, (fatal.)	1
Do. of Vagina,	1	Procidencia Uteri,	1

Disease.	No.	Disease.	No.
(Childbirth (Whites),	3	Lumbago,	6
Weed,	1	Amentia,	1
Contusion,	23	Loss of Voice,	1
Dropsy of Head, and Spina		Periostitis,	1
Bifida,	1	Menorrhagia,	1
Do. of Head,	2	Hooping Cough, no ac-	
Do. of Abdomen,	1	count kept,	
Earache,	14	Gravel,	1
Whitlo,	2	Dyspepsia,	6
Nœvus and inflamed		Constipation,	28
Labia Vag.,	1	Ague,	6
Bleeding from Lungs,	5	Wounds,	19
Psoriasis,	1	Do. of Chest,	3
Tape Worm,	2	Do. do., Fistulous,	1
Exostosis of Fingers,	1	Do. of Scrotum,	1
Threatened Apoplexy,	2	Pleurisy,	7
Sprains,	2	Consumption,	12

Total, 733; exclusive of cases occurring during the Issue of Pre-sents; and the usual run of "Castor Oil" and "Black Draught" cases.

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Manatouawning, 31st December, 1842.

REMARKS.

Toothache.—Creosote generally affords temporary relief, but the majority return for extraction. Acute Rheumatism is rare, but one of the cases was exquisitely marked. The chronic form is exceedingly common, and always benefited by stimulating remedies. Neuralgia, in various degrees of severity, is far from infrequent here, often in its highest degree.—Tic, almost always periodic; Arsenic more useful than Quinine. Abscess of Vagina occurred in an elderly White woman; sufferings were severe. Her mingled stupidity and modesty prevented an early discovery of their cause. A touch of the abscess lancet set all to rights. Dropsy of the Head, and Spina Bifida, a half-breed child. Some relief obtained from a seton; case hopeless, and its death to be desired; it, however, still lives. Dropsy of Abdomen, a very rare disease among Indians, the subject an otherwise healthy woman. Complaint removed by the usual remedies, very much to the surprise of herself and friends, who were puzzled to know where the water went to. Ague.—Five of these cases occurred in Indians at various periods after their return from Detroit. They were all speedily cured by Quinine, &c., (of which they have a very high opinion,) aided by the purity of the air of the Island, where no miasm can exist productive of ague, though there is certainly some peculiarity in its atmosphere to which I am inclined to attribute the number of Neuralgic cases. The sixth case of ague was the servant of the Commissariat Officer, of great severity; cold stage lasted three hours. Contracted the disease at Amherstburgh some years ago. Bled in the cold stage, took Quinine and Solut. Arsenicalis combined. Had no return for twelve days, when he left the Island. Wound of Chest.—Fistulous, the result of a stab in a drunken fray, received five months ago. Under the right shoulder-blade is a wound capable of admitting the little finger, and constantly discharging a large quantity of healthy-looking matter, but no air. The wound was inflicted by a large butcher's knife; an immense gush of blood took place on the instant, he fainted, and continued alternately fainting and the wound pouring forth blood for three days, when it ceased. When seen, he was suffering from hectic fever. He was supplied with good food, and every thing done the nature of the case suggested. At the end of two weeks (when he left the Island, being only a visiting Indian), confident hopes were entertained of his restora-